

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3554

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1128

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

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SUBJ: JOHANNESBURG ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS COVERAGE OF NSSM-39

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1106

"SUNDAY TIMES" PRINTED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL IN ITS OCTOBER 27
EDITION:

QTE AMERICA'S SA DILEMMA

QTE THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER ABOUT "TAR BABY", DR.
KISSINGER'S SECRET REPORT ON US POLICY FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA,
IS THAT IT IS FIVE YEARS OLD, AND A LOT HAS HAPPENED IN THAT
TIME.

QTE WORK HAS STARTED ON REOPENING THE SUEZ CANAL, THE PORTUGUESE
DICTATORSHIP HAS BEEN OVERTHROWN AND THE RUSSIAN NAVAL BUILD-UP
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN HAS INCREASED MENACINGLY. BUT THESE EVENTS,
SO FAR FROM MAKING "TAR BABY" OBSOLETE, HAVE MERELY UNDERLINED
THE DILEMMA INHERENT IN IT.

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QTE AMERICA IS TORN BETWEEN CONFLICTING INTERESTS. HER NAVAL STRATEGISTS DEMAND ACCESS TO SIMONSTOWN AS A STAGING POST TO THE INDIAN OCEAN AND BIG BUSINESS WANTS TO KEEP ON DRAWING RICH PROFITS FROM ENTERPRISES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

QTE ON THE OTHER HAND, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES REQUIRE TOTAL OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID AND A HARD LINE AGAINST THIS GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL.

QTE HENCE THE AMBIVALENCE OF "TAR BABY". IT MAY BE NOTED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS IN A SIMILAR POSITION.

QTE THE DILEMMA IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE. FRELIMO'S VICTORY IN MOZAMBIQUE BRINGS THE DANGER OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE MUCH CLOSER AND EVEN RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET WARSHIPS AT BEIRA AND LOURENCO MARQUES. THIS IS WHY THE PENTAGON AT THE MOMENT SEEMS TO HAVE THE UPPER HAND IN ITS PERENNIAL STRUGGLE WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

QTE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CURRENT ONSLAUGHT ON OUR GOVERNMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF BLACK AFRICA IN AMERICAN POLITICAL THINKING MAKES THE STATE DEPARTMENT INCREASINGLY NERVOUS OF HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH US.

QTE. THIS IS A SITUATION WHICH WE CAN ONLY WATCH WITH ANXIETY. THERE IS LITTLE THAT PRETORIA CAN DO TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME ONE WAY OR THE OTHER--EXCEPT OF COURSE, BY A CHANGE OF POLICY WHICH THIS GOVERNMENT CANNOT CONTEMPLATE.
GUTHRIE

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